



MONTHLY UPDATE ON CHINA

Report of the 16th Monthly Meeting of
China Study Guide

MAY 2018



INTRODUCTION TO THE MONTHLY UPDATE

Caution for the Reader

1. The study circle is a monthly get-together to share our collective work in whatever form the work is available as of this morning!
2. Our work remains work in progress and un-finished because we are perpetually on the lookout for new ideas, improvements and revisions. We are always revising our work in light of speakers' own reviews and any feedback from the readers.
3. The study circle is both informal and based on voluntary work. We all learn as well as contribute by way of our understanding.
4. The WhatsApp group is an important spill-over of the study circle. It keeps us mutually engaged between one meeting and the next.
5. As an informal and voluntary group it complements other formal organizations each of who contribute in their own way.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHINA STUDY CIRCLE

Who are we?

China study circle is an open forum which brings together people with varying interests in China and its remarkable progress to become the world's next superpower from different spheres of life. The rise in China from a poor, stagnant country to a major economic power within a time span of twenty-eight years is often described by analysts as one of the greatest success stories in these present times and this circle provides a baseline to learn and take guidance from it. China study Circle also provides a platform to students who are passionate about studying China. The Study Circle is both informal and based on voluntary work with mutual learning and understanding process.

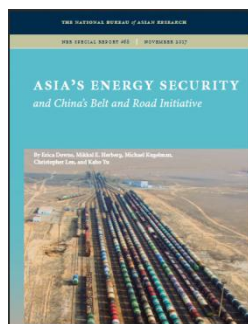
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MONTHLY UPDATES

2 ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL REPORTS ON TOPICS OF CPEC and OBOR/BRI SELECTED DURING APRIL-MAY 2018

By: Neelum Javed



This month's update aimed to further add clarity to the discussion around OBOR Economic Roadmap and to stimulate more informed consideration about the implications of OBOR around the world. The full document can be accessed on the following link:

<http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th2.%20Neelum%20Javed-%20Monthly%20Update%20Academic%20and%20Political%20Reports.pdf>

Since the Circle's inception in December 2016, there has been extensive research on worldwide publications, reports, and their sources on OBOR/BRI compiled into more than 20 voluminous documents. For previous reports presented in this series, follow the link below:

<http://www.gilanifoundation.com/china-study-circle/>

MEDIA REPORTS ON THE TOPICS OF CPEC AND OBOR/BRI SELECTED DURING APRIL-MAY 2018

By: Shahzad Qasim

INTERNATIONAL
THE NEWS

THE EXPRESS
TRIBUNE

The Nation

This section gives an overview on the latest media reports on China. Some of the major reports covered in this section are:

1. China and India try to write a new page of economy
2. Govt allocates Rs198bn for CPEC Projects
3. CPEC creates 70,000 jobs and will create 0.7m more
4. Russia firms taking keen interest in Pakistan
5. Corruption could harm CPEC goals: Forbes
6. Sensing Satellites and CPEC
7. Diamer-Bhasha dam gets go-ahead at last
8. CPEC's Environmental Toll
9. The Status of Gilgit-Baltistan

Complete document can be accessed on the link below:

<http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th3.%20Shahzad%20Qasim-%20Monthly%20Update%20on%20Media%20Reports%20and%20News%20Regarding%20CPEC.pdf>

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LATEST MONTH:

BELT AND ROAD PROJECTS IN FORMER SOVIET STATES (COMMON WEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES)

By Uzma Siraj

This report explored the geographical importance of CIS states for the Belt and Road Projects and provided an overview of China's investment in these states over the last few years.

At present, CIS consists of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine; thereby comprising Central Asian, Caucasian, and Eastern European regions.

This region is of immense significance as it allows for a connecting route between China and Europe.

To access the complete document, click on the link below:

<http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th4.%20Uzma%20Siraj-%20BRI%20Projects%20in%20CIS%20Countries.pdf>

BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BOAO, HAINAN INTEGRATION, GLOBALIZATION, AND A BETTER WORLD

By Tatheer Sherazi

This discussion provided a detailed breakdown of the latest Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference held in Hainan, China, between the 8th and 11th of April 2018.

This included an introduction to the organization, its members, and what it stands for; a brief overview of the themes covered in last three conferences; summary and analysis of the reports presented in the conference; and a snapshot of the attending guests, from around the world in general, and within Pakistan in particular.

Furthermore, this section also detailed a discussion on Diplomacy- with Boao's Forum establishing Xi's first home-court diplomacy since his re-election in March. Importantly, it noted how China has evolved from an inward looking state to an outward looking economic power: integration as the theme of this year's conference.

To access the full report, follow the link below:

<http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th5.%20Tatheer%20Sherazi-%20Boao%20Forum.pdf>

STUDY GUIDE ON CHINA'S REGIONS:

REGION OF THE MONTH: EASTERN CHINA

By: Neelum Javed



The 15th meeting of the China Study Circle marked the introduction of a new series on the Geography of China. The purpose of this series is to familiarize participants with a new region of China each month. The region under review this month, i.e. in the 16th session, was that of Eastern China.

China's Eastern region, comprising Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Jiangxi, and Shandong, is a great contributor to China's economic growth.

This study guide provides an overview of the geography and topography of the area and its population distribution amongst other key factors that highlight its importance in the Belt and Road Initiative. Specifically, it notes the extent to which some of the region's largest economies and ports contribute to China's financial growth.

<http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th6.%20Neelum%20Javed-%20Eastern%20China%20and%20OBOR.pdf>

CONTINUATION FROM LAST SESSION: WESTERN CHINA- SICHUAN AND SHAANXI

By: Jan Sartaj

A continuation of the discussion on Western China from Session 15, this particular section focused on the economic and technological development zones in Sichuan and Shaanxi specifically.

This section also elaborated on the foreign trade and investment specific to these areas.

To access the full report, follow the link below:

[http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th7.%20Jan%20Sartaj-%20Western%20China%20Region%20\(%20Sichuan%20and%20Shaanxi\).pdf](http://gilanifoundation.com/homepage/cpec/16th7.%20Jan%20Sartaj-%20Western%20China%20Region%20(%20Sichuan%20and%20Shaanxi).pdf)

SUMMARY

The 16th Monthly session of China study Circle discussed and analyzed various global components of the Belt and Road Initiative that are of significance. From geographical review of Eastern China to the importance of CIS states in this connectivity endeavor, the session provided the attendees a complete and detailed account of where China is heading to and how influential it is becoming in world economics. A detailed description of Eastern China was given by Neelum Javed followed by an overview on the importance of CIS states by Uzma Siraj. Tatheer Sherazi discussed the latest Boao Forum Annual Conference, its proceedings and their analysis, whereas an overview of international publications and national news items was provided by Neelum Javed and Shahzad Qasim. In the end, Jan Sartaj explored the economic and technological development zones in Sichuan and Shaanxi in continuation of his overview on Western China from session 15.

SPEAKER'S PROFILES

JAN SARTAJ

Jan Sartaj is a PHD scholar in International Relations and is working as a Research Associate in a Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded project- Business and Politics in the Globalized World. His area of expertise is China, particularly focused on Western China.

UZMA SIRAJ

Uzma Siraj is a PhD Scholar in International Relations and is working as a Research Associate in a Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded project- Business and Politics in the Globalized World. Her area of expertise is China, particularly focused on Northern China.

TATHEER SHERAZI

Ms. Tatheer is currently completing her PhD thesis write up. She has been teaching at international Islamic university and Foundation University since 2008 and is currently working as a Research Associate in a Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded project- Business and Politics in the Globalized World. Her area of expertise is China, particularly focused on South Central China.

NEELUM JAVED

Neelum Javed is pursuing her MPhil in International Relations and is also currently working as a Research Associate in a Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded project- Business and Politics in the

Globalized World. Her area of expertise is China, particularly focused on Eastern China.

SHAHZAD QASIM

Shahzad Qasim is a PHD scholar in International Relations and is pursuing his doctorate from IIUI. His thesis title is "Post 9/11 Sino-US-Strategic Competition in South Asia: Analysis of Impact on the Region". He has served in national mainstream media for a long time and is a passive observer of media trends and narratives. Mr. Qasim's area of expertise particularly focuses on China's links with South Asia.

For More Information, please contact

Ms. Fatima Aamir

fatima@gallup.com.pk

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